

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12

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R 021630Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4224

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0889

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, MO, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: FATE OF MISSING FRENCH YOUTHS

REF: RABAT 1785

1. RE FRENCH EMBASSY REQUEST PARA 8 REFTTEL, WE PASS
ALONG FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH FOLLOWING INFORMATION
CONCERNING DISAPPEARANCE OF FRENCH YOUTHS IN SAHARA IN
JANUARY.

2. AP'S MICHAEL GOLDSMITH, WHO COVERS ALGERIA FROM
PARIS BASE, RECENTLY PROVIDED US FOLLOWING
BACKGROUND ON AFP REPORT THAT, ACCORDING TO "OFFICIAL GOA
SOURCES," YOUTHS WERE DEAD. AT TIME IT APPEARED, THIS
REPORT CREATED CERTAIN FUROR LOCALLY SINCE GOA'S POSITION
HAS BEEN, AND REMAINED, THAT IT KNEW NOTHING OF YOUTHS'
FATE. AFP'S ALGIERS CORRESPONDENT TOLD GOLDSMITH IN
CONFIDENCE THAT HE RECEIVED INFORMATION ON WHICH HE BASED
HIS STORY FROM ALGERIAN MILITARY SOURCES WHO, AFP
CORRESPONDENT MAINTAINED, HAD INVESTIGATED MATTER. AFP
CORRESPONDENT HAD REFUSED TO DIVULGE HIS SOURCES WHEN
QUESTIONED BY HIGHLY INCENSED OFFICIALS IN
PRESIDENCY'S PRESS OFFICE.

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3. GOLDSMITH IS LONG TIME FRIEND OF AFP CORRESPONDENT AND

BELIEVES LATTER WAS TELLING TRUTH ABOUT ORIGIN OF HIS
REPORT.

4. COMMENT: GOLDSMITH IS SEASONED OBSERVER OF ALGERIAN
SCENE. HE IS NOT ALWAYS COMPLETELY OBJECTIVE, HOWEVER.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IF FOREGOING INFORMATION CONVEYED
TO FRENCH, REQUEST THAT GOLDSMITH AND THIS EMBASSY NOT
BE IDENTIFIED WITH IT IN ANY WAY.PARKER

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